

High School Dropouts 2017-18 Massachusetts Public Schools

The annual high school dropout report represents a snapshot of those students who dropped out of school in any given year. The data contained in this dropout report reflect one year of dropout data across grades nine through twelve and not a particular cohort of students across four years. This report provides annual dropout data to education leaders to develop and strengthen dropout prevention programs in the state.

Please note that the Department has also calculated and released graduation rates for the 2018 cohort that provide a more complete picture of the outcomes of high school students in Massachusetts. It is important to keep in mind that the dropout data contained in the graduation rate reports is a cohort dropout rate and shows the cumulative effect of students dropping out over four years. The graduation rate reports can be viewed at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/info services/reports/gradrates/>.

In the 2017-18 school year, 5,408 or 1.9 percent of students in grades nine through twelve dropped out of school.

Table 1: State Dropout Trends: 2007-08 to 2017-18

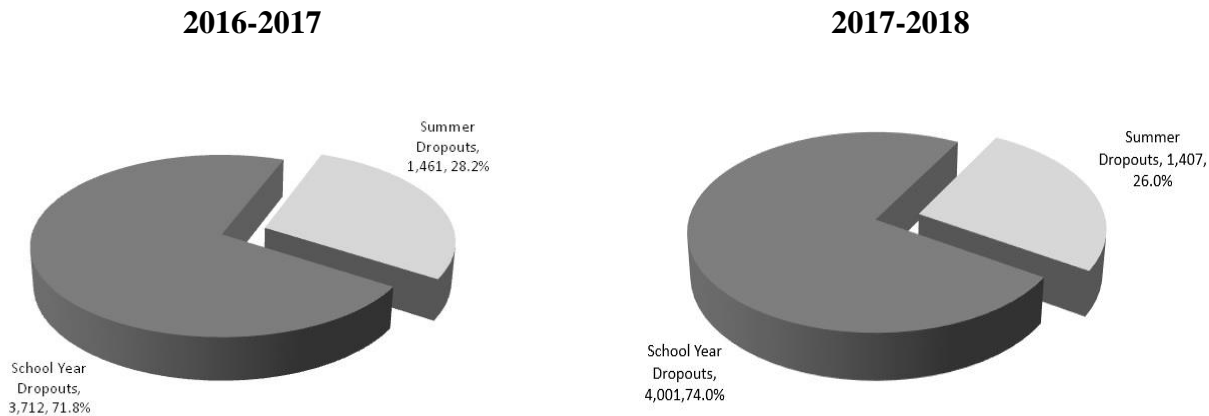
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Total HS Enrollment	295,937	292,372	290,502	289,161	287,055	287,506	287,478	288,934	289,583	290,080	291,139
Number of Dropouts	9,959	8,585	8,296	7,894	7,051	6,248	5,746	5,346	5,523	5,172	5,408
Dropout Rate	3.4%	2.9%	2.9%	2.7%	2.5%	2.2%	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%	1.9%

Table 2: Final Enrollment Status of the 2017-18 Dropout Count

Code	Final Enrollment Status	Number of Dropouts	Percent of all Dropouts
Transfer	Transfer to an in-state public school (with no record of re-enrollment)	1,458	27.0%
Dropout	Enrolled in a non-diploma granting adult education program	668	12.4%
	Entered Job Corps	126	2.3%
	Entered the military	4	0.1%
	Incarcerated, district is no longer providing educational services	27	0.5%
	Left school due to employment	404	7.5%
	Confirmed dropout - plans unknown	1,642	30.4%
	Student's status/location unknown	1,079	20.0%
Total Dropout Count		5,408	100%

The final dropout count is based on two groups of students; summer and school year dropouts. Summer dropouts were reported in the October 1, 2017 SIMS submission as a dropout or a transfer to an in-state public school (with no record of re-enrollment) prior to the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, whereas school year dropouts were reported as either a dropout or as a transfer to in-state public (with no record of re-enrollment) during the 2017-18 school year. In 2017-18, the percentage of summer dropouts decreased by 2.2 percentage points while the percentage of school year dropouts increased from 2016-17.

**Figure 2: Comparison of Summer and School Year Dropouts
Composing the Total Dropout Counts in 2016-17 and 2017-18**



Beginning in the 2003-04 school year, in compliance with the National Center for Education Statistics reporting guidelines, summer dropouts were applied to the grade in which they failed to enroll. Therefore, students who completed grade eight but did not enroll in grade nine were included in the analysis as grade nine summer dropouts.

Table 3: Comparison of 2017-18 Summer Dropouts and School Year Dropouts by Grade

			Number of Dropouts	Total Grade Dropouts	Percent of Grade Dropouts
Grade	9	Summer	226	1,317	17.2%
		School Year	1,091		82.8%
	10	Summer	339	1,254	27.0%
		School Year	915		73.0%
	11	Summer	249	1,330	18.7%
		School Year	1,081		81.3%
	12	Summer	593	1,507	39.3%
		School Year	914		60.7%

Beginning with the class of 2010, the Department required students to meet the following requirements to earn a Competency Determination (CD) in order to graduate from high school¹:

1. Meet or exceed the Proficient threshold scaled score of 240 on the English Language Arts and Mathematics grade 10 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests, or (b) meet or exceed the Needs Improvement threshold scaled score of 220 on the English Language Arts and Mathematics grade 10 MCAS tests and fulfill the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan.

¹ Data in this section can only be compared to tables from 2010; data from years prior to 2010 is not comparable because of this policy change. Additional information on the Competency Determination standards can be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr30.html?section=03>.

2. Meet or exceed the Needs Improvement threshold scaled score of 220 on the Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS test

Students who did not pass the grade ten MCAS had the opportunity to pass the MCAS through re-test opportunities before their scheduled graduation date. Among both grade eleven and grade twelve dropouts, 58.4 percent had earned a CD by meeting the standard before dropping out of school.

Table 4: Dropout Rates and Percent of Dropouts Among Competency Determination (CD) Earners and Students without a CD

Grade	CD Status	Number of Enrolled Students	Number of Dropouts	Dropout Rate	Percent of Dropouts
11	With CD	67,124	605	0.9%	45.5%
	Without CD	4,563	725	15.9%	54.5%
12	With CD	67,545	995	1.5%	66.0%
	Without CD	2,433	512	21.0%	34.0%
Total	With CD	134,669	1,600	1.2%	56.4%
	Without CD	6,996	1,237	17.7%	43.6%

Table 5: Annual Dropout Data for Selected Demographics: 2017-18

		Total HS Enrollment	Percent of HS Enrollment	Number of Dropouts	Annual Dropout Rate	Percent of all Dropouts
Grade	9 th	76,551	26.3%	1,317	1.7%	24.4%
	10 th	72,923	25.0%	1,254	1.7%	23.2%
	11 th	71,687	24.6%	1,330	1.9%	24.6%
	12 th	69,978	24.0%	1,507	2.2%	27.9%
Race/ Ethnicity	African American	26,861	9.2%	785	2.9%	14.5%
	Asian	18,801	6.5%	120	0.6%	2.2%
	Hispanic	53,419	18.3%	2,416	4.5%	44.7%
	Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	8,281	2.8%	157	1.9%	2.9%
	Native American	656	0.2%	17	2.6%	0.3%
	Native Hawaiian	265	0.1%	0	0.0%	0.0%
	White	182,856	62.8%	1,913	1.0%	35.4%
Gender	Female	143,292	49.2%	2,119	1.5%	39.2%
	Male	147,762	50.8%	3,284	2.2%	60.7%

Table 6: Annual Dropout Rates for Selected Demographics: 2010-11 to 2017-18

		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Grade	9	2.6%	2.3%	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%	1.7%
	10	2.8%	2.5%	2.2%	2.0%	1.8%	1.9%	1.6%	1.7%
	11	2.7%	2.4%	2.2%	2.0%	1.7%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%
	12	2.9%	2.6%	2.4%	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%	1.8%	2.2%
Race/ Ethnicity	African American	4.8%	4.5%	3.9%	3.5%	3.0%	3.2%	2.9%	2.9%
	Asian	1.8%	1.5%	1.1%	1.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
	Hispanic	7.0%	6.1%	5.4%	4.9%	4.4%	4.5%	4.2%	4.5%
	Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	2.5%	2.6%	2.5%	2.3%	2.4%	2.4%	1.7%	1.9%
	Native American	3.4%	4.5%	4.2%	2.8%	3.4%	3.8%	4.0%	2.6%
	Native Hawaiian	4.4%	4.3%	4.4%	3.6%	2.7%	2.8%	2.2%	0.0%
	White	1.7%	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
Gender	Female	2.3%	2.0%	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%
	Male	3.2%	2.9%	2.6%	2.4%	2.2%	2.4%	2.1%	2.2%

Table 7: Annual Dropout Data by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 2017-18

		HS Enrollment	Percent of HS Enrollment	Number of Dropouts	Annual Dropout Rate	Percent of all Dropouts
African American	Female	13,219	4.5%	308	2.3%	5.7%
	Male	13,639	4.7%	477	3.5%	8.8%
Asian	Female	9,441	3.2%	47	0.5%	0.9%
	Male	9,355	3.2%	73	0.8%	1.3%
Hispanic	Female	25,798	8.9%	950	3.7%	17.6%
	Male	27,614	9.5%	1,466	5.3%	27.1%
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	Female	4,185	1.4%	61	1.5%	1.1%
	Male	4,095	1.4%	95	2.3%	1.8%
Native American	Female	334	0.1%	6	1.8%	0.1%
	Male	322	0.1%	11	3.4%	0.2%
Native Hawaiian	Female	132	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%
	Male	132	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%
White	Female	90,183	31.0%	747	0.8%	13.8%
	Male	92,605	31.8%	1,162	1.3%	21.5%

Table 8: Annual Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 2010-11 to 2017-18

		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
African American	Female	4.1%	3.5%	3.0%	2.7%	2.3%	2.5%	2.3%	2.3%
	Male	5.5%	5.4%	4.7%	4.2%	3.7%	3.9%	3.6%	3.5%
Asian	Female	1.5%	1.3%	0.9%	0.9%	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%
	Male	2.1%	1.7%	1.4%	1.2%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%
Hispanic	Female	6.0%	5.3%	4.5%	4.0%	3.8%	3.4%	3.4%	3.7%
	Male	8.0%	6.8%	6.2%	5.8%	5.0%	5.7%	5.0%	5.3%
Multi-Race, Non- Hispanic	Female	1.9%	1.9%	2.2%	1.7%	2.2%	2.3%	1.3%	1.5%
	Male	3.2%	3.3%	2.9%	3.0%	2.7%	2.5%	2.2%	2.3%
Native American	Female	2.9%	4.6%	4.0%	2.1%	3.3%	3.1%	3.2%	1.8%
	Male	3.8%	4.5%	4.3%	3.5%	3.5%	4.6%	4.9%	3.4%
Native Hawaiian	Female	3.6%	3.2%	3.4%	2.1%	2.8%	0.7%	1.5%	0.0%
	Male	5.1%	5.2%	5.2%	5.1%	2.7%	5.1%	2.7%	0.0%
White	Female	1.3%	1.2%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%
	Male	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.2%	1.3%

Table 9: Annual Dropout Rates for Special Populations: 2017-18

		Total HS Enrollment	Percent of HS Enrollment	Number of Dropouts	Annual Dropout Rate	Percent of all Dropouts
Students with Disabilities	Students with Disabilities	46,115	15.8%	1,551	3.4%	28.7%
	Students without Disabilities	245,024	84.2%	3,857	1.6%	71.3%
English Language Learner (ELL)	ELL	19,680	6.8%	1,496	7.6%	27.7%
	Non ELL	271,459	93.2%	3,912	1.4%	72.3%
Economically Disadvantaged²	Economically Disadvantaged	82,452	28.3%	2,939	3.6%	54.3%
	Non Economically Disadvantaged	208,687	71.7%	2,469	1.2%	45.7%
High Needs	High Needs	118,838	40.8%	4,236	3.6%	78.3%
	Non-High Needs	172,301	59.2%	1,172	0.7%	21.7%

² In the 2014-15 school year, the Department began determining income status using the Economically Disadvantaged indicator and discontinued use of the Low Income indicator. For more information, please see: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/ed.html>.

Table 10: Annual Dropout Rates for Special Populations: 2010-11 to 2017-18

		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Students with Disabilities	Students with Disabilities	4.6%	3.6%	3.3%	3.3%	3.5%	3.1%	3.3%	3.4%
	Students without Disabilities	2.4%	2.2%	1.9%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%	1.5%	1.6%
English Learner (EL)	EL	7.9%	6.9%	6.5%	6.3%	5.7%	6.6%	6.5%	7.6%
	Non EL	2.5%	2.3%	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%
Low- Income	Low-Income	4.8%	4.4%	3.8%	3.5%	-	-	-	-
	Non Low-Income	1.8%	1.5%	1.3%	1.1%	-	-	-	-
Economically Disadvantaged	Economically Disadvantaged	-	-	-	-	3.3%	4.1%	3.6%	3.6%
	Non Economically Disadvantaged	-	-	-	-	1.4%	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%
High Needs	High Needs	3.1%	4.1%	3.8%	3.5%	3.4%	3.7%	3.5%	3.6%
	Non-High Needs	2.4%	1.2%	0.9%	0.7%	1.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%

Table 11: Annual Dropout Rates by School Type 2010-11 to 2017-18

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Regular/Comprehensive Academic Schools (319)³	2.8%	2.5%	2.2%	2.0%	1.8%	1.9%	1.7%	1.9%
Vocational-Technical Total (37)	1.6%	1.4%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%
City/Town (8)	4.4%	3.8%	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.1%	1.7%	1.8%
Regional/County/Independent (29)	0.9%	0.9%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
Charter Schools (48)⁴	4.2%	3.3%	3.8%	3.5%	3.5%	3.3%	3.3%	3.0%
Schools Located in Cities⁵ (190)	4.5%	3.9%	3.4%	3.2%	2.8%	3.0%	2.8%	2.9%
Schools Located in Towns (214)	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%

³ Represents the number of schools in the category in the 2017-18 school year.

⁴ Represents all charter schools with enrollment in grades nine through twelve, including those whose primary mission is to serve at-risk students

⁵ As defined by the incorporation status within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Table 12: Annual Dropout Rates Among Schools: 2011-12 to 2017-18⁶

	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
<i>Number of Schools Included</i>	355		358		363		364		371		368		369	
Annual Rate	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0	21	6	31	9	26	7	30	8	30	8	29	8	34	9
0.1 – 1.0	121	34	124	35	150	41	151	41	159	43	170	46	167	45
1.1 – 2.5	105	30	116	32	106	29	104	29	101	27	87	24	88	24
2.6 – 5.0	58	16	49	14	42	12	39	11	38	10	41	11	42	11
5.1 – 7.5	17	5	12	3	8	2	13	4	9	2	12	3	10	3
7.6 – 10.0	7	2	2	1	4	1	5	1	7	2	4	1	4	1
10.1 and above	26	7	24	7	27	7	22	6	27	7	25	7	24	7

⁶Only includes schools with enrollment of 75 students or more as dropout rates for schools with low enrollments are overly sensitive to small variations.